



HRGB Scottish Newsletter

2020 Issue 1 – February 2020

Chat from the Chair

On Saturday 12 October 2019, the Region enjoyed a great Autumn Rally in the company of Tim Willetts, National Chair, HRGB at Ruthrieston West Church celebrating 30 years of handchime ringing in Aberdeen. Huge thanks are extended to Elaine Duffus and Silver City Chimes for hosting the event.

The committee were delighted to hear that the first ever handbell rally to be held in Orkney took place in St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall on Saturday 7 December. Well done to all involved.

The 21st edition of the Scottish Schools Ring will be held at Newton Primary School on Tuesday 12 May. Over 160 ringers are expected to take part.

I look forward to seeing you all at the 2020 Scottish Region AGM and Spring Rally which will be held at the Bankfoot Church Centre, Bankfoot, Perth on Saturday 21st March 2020. Cushnie Handbell Ringers will be hosting our Autumn Rally on Saturday 3rd October when we will be helping them celebrate their 25th anniversary.

The Scottish Region will be hosting the UK National Rally at the Stirling Court Hotel on the University of Stirling campus over the weekend of 9th-11th April 2021. There is a huge amount of work to do in the preparation and delivery of such an event so please help your committee out where you can.

Anne Singleton from Amber Bells, Ashover, Derbyshire, has donated a range of bells to HRGB which have been allocated to Regions so that they are available for short term loans to enable bands to 'double up' or to augment existing sets. The bells (owned and insured by HRGB) that have been allocated to the Scottish Region are B^b6, B6 and C7 and are currently being put to good use by Blair Bells. If you are interested in borrowing these bells please contact me by going to our website www.hrgbScotland.org.uk and clicking on the "[Contact Us](#)" page.

The Get Creative Festival shines a light on all the great cultural activity that takes place right across the UK and encourages people to try their hand at something new and creative. This huge national celebration of creativity aims to give everyone the chance to get actively involved in a creative event in their local area. From Saturday 9th to Sunday 17th May hundreds of organisations and community groups will be putting on events to help people get creative. Might you be one of them?

My very best wishes to you all.

The National Rally 9-11 April 2021

The National Weekend Rally of HRGB will be held in the Stirling Court Hotel in the beautiful grounds of Stirling University and overlooking Stirling Castle. This will be the third time this event has been held in Scotland. The weekend will include presentations, hands-on workshops, massed ringing, read and ring repertoire, a concert, processions, change ringing and talks. Hopefully this will attract many ringers from all around the UK.

An event of this scale requires a mammoth number of tasks to be undertaken to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Clearly the Regional Committee will be taking a leading role in shaping what we do. Many of the tasks have volunteers already in place.

However, in order to ensure no one person is left with a large task it would be helpful if you, or someone in your team, or indeed a team effort, would be willing to help take on some of the tasks. Examples are below, but more will become evident (if one task can be shared by a few members within one team, that spreads the load).

Some things need particular skills; some need concentrated time spent near to or during the event, while others require someone to work away over a longer period of time before the event. The aspects already identified are as follows, along with their respective coordinators:

1. Bookings. Acknowledging applications by sending letters/emails. **Laura Buist**
2. Keeping track of payments. **Laura Buist**
3. Allocating people to workshops of their choice and keeping a record of them all. **John Elcock**
4. Organising and finding lecturers/workshop leaders and identifying and sourcing their resource needs. **Lysbeth Wilson**
5. Organising a team of stewards to steward each room. **Laura Buist**
6. Organising music folders for workshops/massed ring music packs. **Claire Griffiths**
7. Organising Read and Ring music procurement from various UK/US publishers. **Claire Griffiths**
8. Organising social/cultural music for Friday ad hoc ringing. **Ruth Cantlay**
9. Identify and organise logistics of equipment movement during the event – bells, foam, chimes etc. **John Elcock**
10. Organise procurement of Handbells, Chimes and Belleplates, tables, foams and keyboard for the workshops, and massed ringing during the event. **John Elcock**
11. Organising a team of “movers” to move equipment on trolleys as required. (this would be kept to a minimum). **John Elcock**
12. Preparation of programmes. **Ruth Cantlay**
13. Preparation of name badges and welcome folder contents which would include advertising literature from music publishers and local tourist board. **Joyce Beattie**
14. Liaise and set up website booking.
15. Programming of event timings. **Lysbeth Wilson**
16. Preparation of publicity material for Reverberations. **Joyce Beattie**

17. Preparation and sending of publicity materials for local circulation. **Joyce Beattie**
18. Seeking sponsorship both locally and further afield. **Anne Docherty**
19. Seeking sponsorship or support in kind for aspects of the event (within the national/international handbell industry. **Anne Docherty**
20. Arranging trade stands and sales areas to meet their needs. **Laura Buist**
21. Photographer to record as much of the event as possible.
22. Concert and Scottish region compere. **John Elcock**
23. Raffle. **Anne Docherty**
24. Front of House. **Laura Buist**
25. Flyer. **Joyce Beattie**
26. Massed Ringing. **Malcolm Wilson**
27. Letterhead.
28. Sunday worship. **Claire Griffiths**

If you think you, or your team, can offer assistance with any of these tasks, please contact the appropriate co-ordinator as follows (either by clicking on the links below or going to our website www.hrgbscot.org.uk and then going to the "Contact Us" page:

[Anne Docherty](#)

[Claire Griffiths](#)

[John Elcock](#)

[Joyce Beattie](#)

[Laura Buist](#)

[Lysbeth Wilson](#)

[Malcolm Wilson](#)

[Mary McGregor](#)

[Ruth Cantlay](#)

Thirty Years of Handchimes!

Thirty years ago, on a cold Autumn night,

I had a vision; I had seen the light!

To ring the handchimes was my intent,

And to follow those handbells, wherever they went!

Where have the past thirty years gone? I can clearly remember the first meeting we held to establish the viability of setting up a handchime group in Greyfriars Church, Aberdeen. We had

a two octave set of Suzuki Chimes lying unused and felt it was time to get them ringing! Previously, myself and the minister's wife, Mairi Goldie, travelled to Dunblane to a concert by the Beaus and Belles of Ohio and we were hooked! Soon after, we found sufficient interest from members of the congregation and before we knew it, Greyfriars Chimes were formed. We were fortunate to have been able to attend a number of the Ring In Praise days in Dunblane and here we learned so much and met so many other ringers from around Scotland – many of whom have become ringing friends. Time has truly flown but ringing handchimes has taken us to many places we would not otherwise have visited. As a team we have travelled around Scotland for rallies, workshops and concerts. We have been honoured to represent the Scottish Region in Birmingham and Glasgow at National events. Individual team members have travelled further south – including Kingston-upon-Thames, York and the Lake District - and across the world to ring. What amazing experiences we have had! What fun we have had! There are now two handchime groups in Aberdeen – Silver City Chimes, still ringing under the original Musical Director, Elaine Duffus, and Chapel Chimers, directed by Jan Smith who is also one of the founder members of Greyfriars Chimes.

To celebrate thirty years of ringing handchimes in Aberdeen in October 2019, we decided to hold three events – an Autumn Rally, a Concert and an Afternoon Tea. We managed to fit them all in within four weeks, around the date we first started thirty years ago.

On Saturday 12th October we were delighted to welcome over seventy ringers from the length and breadth of Scotland to Ruthrieston West Church for the 2019 HRGB Scottish Region Autumn Rally. We also had Tim Willetts, National Chair of HRGB, with us all the way from Surrey and we were able to introduce him to some tasty Scottish delicacies (as well as some great ringing!) It was good to have handbell ringers from Orkney with us for their first Scottish Region Rally. The excellent turn-out made our efforts to host worthwhile and we were able to donate £150 to Willows Animal Sanctuary from half of the raffle proceeds.



Two weeks later, on Saturday 26th October, we held our “Aberdeen Rings” concert in Mannofield Church, Aberdeen. Four teams – Silver City Chimes, Chapel Chimers, Kilwhang Handbells and Mannofield Belleplate Ringers – provided a real ringing feast for the audience, many of whom were hearing such instruments for the first time. Each team performed two solo spots then all four teams performed my arrangement of “Auld Lang Syne” together to finish the afternoon. The standard of playing was very high and greatly appreciated by all who attended. We were delighted to give Charlie House, a local charity supporting children with life limiting illnesses, the profits from the concert - £450.



Two weeks after the concert we hosted an afternoon tea on Saturday 9th November for current and former chimes members. We had a great turn out and it was lovely to catch up with so many of our former ringers, several of whom had travelled back to the city for the event, over a delicious tea. During the afternoon, we held a one minute silence to remember four dedicated members who are no longer with us. It was a very enjoyable, relaxing, afternoon to end our celebrations and a special way to note that every single person in attendance has helped to keep Handchimes ringing out in Aberdeen for thirty years. Everyone agreed that those thirty years have passed so very quickly!



We step out into our ringing future with so many memories of people, places and experiences. I wonder just what that future will hold.... Ask me again in another thirty years!!

Elaine Duffus

NEW HRGB WEBSITE

Dear Katrina

We are sending you this email to introduce the new HRGB web site at www.hrgb.org.uk or www.handbells.org.uk

For the first time, our web site allows new members to join online, either as independent members or as members of a team.

It also includes an exclusive Members Area where members of HRGB can obtain more detailed advice and information than that available to the general public.

To gain access to the Members Area:

- a. Select Log In from the Members Area in the top menu or
- b. From the HRGB Members Menu in the right-hand column

You will then see a log in screen; your User ID is your first name and surname - KatrinaGordon (as you gave it to us on the last membership renewal form, but written without a space eg JohnSmith)

You now need to set a password; from beneath the log in panel select Forgot your password?

You will be asked to enter your email address.

All HRGB Members' email addresses (as given on the last membership renewal form) are stored on the system. If your email address is recognised you will be sent an email with a link which allows you access for 24 hours. You must set your password here.

If your email address is not recognised or you have any other login difficulty please email john@torbells.plus.com and I will do whatever I can to assist.

Once you have logged in you will see additional entries under the HRGB Members Menu

- Log out (you do not need to log out unless you wish to do so or if you are accessing the system from a shared public device)

- Change My Password which is self-explanatory

- Edit My Details which allow you to check and correct the personal data HRGB holds about you.

The above menu is followed by a new list of topics and information which is available only to logged in Members. It is headed by a link to HRGB Sales giving a discount code entitling Members to a 10% reduction on most items from the shop when spending more than £10.

We hope you enjoy using the new web site; if you have any suggestions for improving it, please let us know.

John Willis

Important Dates for your Diary:

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| Sat 21st March 2020 | Scottish Region AGM and Spring Rally will be held at the Bankfoot Church Centre, Bankfoot, Perth, hosted by Blair Bells |
| Tues 12th May 2020 | The 21 st Scottish Schools Ring event will be held in Newton Primary School, Dunblane |
| Sat 9th-Sun 17th May 2020 | Get Creative Festival – nationwide |
| Sat 3rd October 2020 | Cushnie Handbell Ringers will be hosting our Autumn Rally when we will be helping them celebrate their 25 th anniversary |
| Fri 9th-Sun 11th April 2021 | The Scottish Region will be hosting the UK National Rally at the Stirling Court Hotel on the University of Stirling campus |